for Translator-cum-Announcers (Foreign Languages) knowledge in both Indian and the targeted foreign country is essential.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that at present there is no such proposal to give same pay scales to Translator-cum-Announcers of all the languages.

DD'S proposal for production of serials

2439, SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has invited proposals for production of serials on the novels of Sahitya Academy Award winning writer from North East and also for the North East New Magazine from outside producers some months ago under commissioned category;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said project has not been implemented till now and processing has also not started;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to start; and

(d) how much fund is proposed for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals received in this regard are under process in Prasar Bharati.

(d) An amount of Rs. 10.50 crores has been earmarked for the development of Radio and TV Software in the NE Region. This includes the cost of producing serials on the novels of Sahitya Academy Award winning writers and also for the North East Magazine programme.